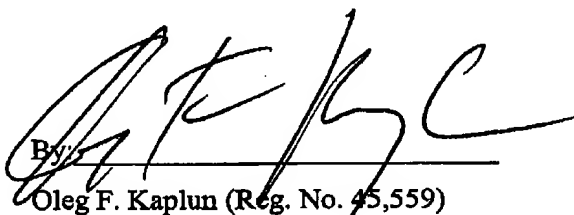


**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 9, and 22 have been amended. Thus, claims 1 - 22 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 22, 2005

  
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